

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 7, 1998 LB 341
 LR 303

question before you is the advancement of LR 303CA. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed nay. LR 303CA advances. LB 341.

CLERK: (LB) 341. E & R amendments, first of all, Senator.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bruning.

SENATOR BRUNING: Madam President, I move we adopt the E & R amendments for LB 341.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question before you is the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 341. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed nay. The E & R amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Senator Wesely would move to indefinitely postpone Legislative Bill 341.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely to open on his motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. I was not here on General File to take up a kill motion on this, and I will not actually go to a vote on the kill motion, but I do want to express and let you know my opposition to the bill. I voted against the bill in committee, as did Senator Matzke. The hearing, at the time, had very strong support from advocates for the blind, to try and set up this separate commission for the blind and visually impaired. And it was also a neutral testimony from the Department of Health and Human Services. I don't know ultimately whether or not the Governor would sign this legislation if it does pass. But my recommendation to him would be to veto it, and my recommendation to you is to not support its advancement. The blind are now supported through the Department of Health and Human Services and, prior to that, they were under the Department of Public Institutions. There has been ongoing conflict between services for the visually impaired and DPI prior to the merger into the partnership of the Department of Health and Human Services. There is conflict. There has been a difference of opinion over the years, and I understand why there's an effort by the